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Title: The speaker made on observation regarding the business transacted by the House during the week ending 17.04.2008.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, for your information, I want to briefly recapitulate the main items of business transacted by the House during the last week.

During Question Hour, out of the 60 Starred Questions, which were listed, only 16 could be answered orally. The replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with the replies to 612 Unstarred Questions for the same period were laid on the Table.

The House discussed for about 6 hours and 52 minutes a Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 regarding situation arising out of continued rise in the prices of essential commodities and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto.[a1] [R2]

As regards Financial and Legislative Business, the House took up for discussion the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 2008-2009. The discussion, which took 4 hours and 27 minutes, concluded with the reply of the Minister of Railways. All the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2008-09 were voted in full and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

As regards the Private Members' Business, 2 Private Member's Resolutions were discussed during the week. Resolution regarding Free and Compulsory Education up to Higher Secondary level by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav was discussed on 17th April, 2008 for about 2 hours and 21 minutes before being negatived Another Resolution regarding Legislation for the overall development of persons belonging to Denotified tribes and Nomadic tribes by Shri Haribhau Rathod was also taken up for discussion on 17th April, 2008 for about 3 minutes and remained part-discussed.

Three Statements were made by the Ministers on important subjects in the House.

During the week, Members raised as many as 19 matters of urgent public importance. Also, 20 matters were raised under Rule 377.

The Departmentally-Related Standing Committees presented thirty eight Reports during the week.

While we lost 5 hours and 52 minutes due to interruptions and adjournments last week, the House sat late for 4 hours and 52 minutes to compensate the lost time.

Though we have had lost some valuable time of the House, yet I take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to the hon. Members for the cooperation and support generally extended to the Chair in the smooth conduct of the proceedings.

12.05 hrs.